

REMARKS

Claims 1 has been amended to remove prior sub-part (b); as claim 1 now only contains sub-parts (a) to (c), claim 56 has been cancelled. Claim 14 has also been amended to correct a clerical error made in the amendment filed December 23, 2003. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-14 and 28-55 are pending.

The Restriction Requirement

Pursuant to the Office Action mailed June 30, 2004, the Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121. In particular, the Examiner contends that a search for SEQ ID NO:7 would present an undue burden. Thus, the Examiner has required restriction between: (1) a group consisting of the invention of claims 1(a), 1(c) and 1(d); and (2) a group consisting of the invention of claim 1(b).

In response, Applicants elect the subject matter of Group 1 as described above, directed to methods utilizing polynucleotides encoding SEQ ID NO:2, polynucleotides encoding the CTGF-2 polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 75804, and polynucleotides encoding a CTGF-2 polypeptide fragment with angiogenic activity, represented by prior claims 1(a), 1(c), and 1(d) (now claims 1(a) to 1(c)), and the remaining dependent claims. Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated in the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 of the Office Action that these inventions are related and restriction among them is not required. Accordingly, Applicants believe that they have fully complied with the restriction requirement.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the above amendments and remarks is respectfully solicited. In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below if any further action by Applicants would expedite the allowance of this application.

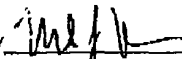
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37

C.F.R. § 1.136, such an extension is requested and the appropriate fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated: July 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

1. Fax Cover
2. Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

I hereby certify that the above-listed correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on July 6, 2004.



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